

Message Text

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, WFC

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC) FOURTH SESSION

REF: A) ROME 5768, B) ROME 6667, C) MEXICO 6057, D) ROME 6890

1. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, HARRY WALTERS, WFC SECRETARIAT, TO BE IN WASHINGTON APRIL 20-21 FOR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON FORTHCOMING COUNCIL SESSION IN MEXICO. THIS TELEGRAM TO SERVE AS STATUS REPORT ON WFC SECRETARIAT'S PREPARATIONS FOR MEETING. CONSIDERING MEETING LESS THAN TWO MONTHS AWAY, PREPARATIONS AND NECESSARY COORDINATION WELL BEHIND SCHEDULE. SOME PROBLEM AREAS:

A. DOCUMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN CIRCULATED TO ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS. HOPEFULLY NEXT WEEK SUMMARY DOCUMENT FOR AGENDA ITEM 6 WILL BE CIRCULATED, WITH AT LEAST ONE WEEK MORE FOR FINAL DOCUMENTS. US IS ONE OF FEW COUNTRIES WITH ADVANCE COPIES, BUT DOES NOT YET HAVE DOCUMENTS FOR FOOD PRODUCTION PROPOSAL FOR ITEM 6. ANTICIPATE GETTING THEM SOON.

B. COORDINATION IS LACKING BETWEEN SECRETARIAT, MANY COUNTRIES, WFC COUNCIL MEMBERS, INTERNATIONAL

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AGENCIES, AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH ARE INVOLVED IN FOOD PRODUCTION PROPOSALS. FODAG UNDERSTANDS CONSULTATIONS WITH FOUR OR FIVE LDC'S INVOLVED IN PROPOSAL HAVE BEEN OF ONLY GENERAL NATURE. BESIDES US, WITH WHICH SECRETARIAT HAS CONSULTED--THOUGH CERTAINLY NOT IN DEPTH (SEE REFTTEL A), SECRETARIAT HAS HEARD FROM TWO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES:

DENMARK WAS FAVORABLE; UK WAS NEGATIVE. SECRETARIAT EXPECTS FRANCE TO BE NEGATIVE BUT NETHERLANDS AND SWITZERLAND TO BE POSITIVE. WITH SPLIT IN EEC, ONE CANNOT EXPECT POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM COMMUNITY REP IN MEXICO. OF THREE INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES--FAO, UNDP, AND WORLD BANK--FODAG UNDERSTANDS THAT HANNAH OF WFC HAS NOT DISCUSSED DETAILS WITH WORLD BANK NOR DOES HE HAVE FIRM COMMITMENT FROM UNDP, WITH WHOM HE HAS HAD GENERAL CONVERSATIONS. SAOUMA LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC FOR FAO. WITHOUT FURTHER COMMITMENTS AND SUPPORT FROM WORLD BANK AND UNDP, UNLIKELY WFC WOULD GET SUPPORT FROM FAO (SEE REFTEL B).
C. MEXICANS, WHO HOST COUNCIL SESSION, HAVE MOVED AHEAD WITH PHYSICAL PREPARATIONS BUT NOT YET ACTED ON SUBSTANTIVE. THEY HAVE NOT BEEN PARTICIPATING IN BUREAU MEETINGS, WHERE THEY HAVE VICE-PRESIDENTIAL POSITION (SEE REFTEL C).
D. LAST YEAR, TANCO ON OWN GROUND IN MANILA; THIS YEAR IT WILL BE HARDER FOR HIM TO OPERATE.

2. THESE PROBLEMS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN LIGHT OF FACT THAT THIS YEAR'S MEETING IS DIFFERENT FROM LAST YEAR'S, WHEN MANILA COMMUNIQUE WAS DERIVED FROM CIEC NEGOTIATIONS IN PARIS. THIS YEAR, WFC WANTS PUT FORWARD ACTION PROGRAM THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF FOOD PRODUCTION PROPOSAL.

3. SECRETARIAT AWARE OF PROBLEMS OUTLINED AND ASSESSING SITUATION AND DEVELOPING PLAN OF ACTION FOR BOTH SECRETARIAT AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUREAU FOR TIME REMAINING BEFORE MEXICO MEETING. MAIN POINTS ARE:
A. SCHEDULING CONSULTATIONS FOR SECRETARIAT AND BUREAU (ASSUMING MEXICAN VICE-PRESIDENT WILL NOT BE ACTIVE) WITH COUNTRIES, INCLUDING EC, AND WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.
B. PUTTING PRIORITY ON DISTRIBUTION OF OVERVIEW PAPER FOR AGENDA ITEM 6 AND FOOD PRODUCTION PROPOSAL (HOPEFULLY READY MIDDLE NEXT WEEK). WALTERS WILL HANDCARRY TO WASHINGTON. FODAG WILL CABLE MAIN POINTS OF PAPERS.
C. SECRETARIAT ADJUSTING AND REDRAFTING FOOD PRODUCTION PROPOSAL IN LIGHT OF CURRENT SITUATION. IT RECOGNIZES PROPOSAL WILL UNDERGO FURTHER ADJUSTMENT BASED ON COMMENTS RECEIVED. (COMMENT; RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING PROPOSAL WILL BECOME LESS SPECIFIC AND MORE FLEXIBLE AS TIME PASSES.)
D. DEVELOPING SUGGESTIONS OF HOW KEY COUNTRIES, SUCH AS US, CAN HELP GAIN ACCEPTANCE OF FOOD PRODUCTION PROPOSALS.
E. BASED ON CONSULTATIONS, PREPARING SHORT SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PREPCOM AND COUNCIL TO FOCUS ON. (COMMENT: ONE POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE RECOMMENDATION THAT COUNCIL AUTHORIZES SECRETARIAT AND BUREAU TO CONDUCT CONSULTATIONS WITH COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON HOW FOOD PRODUCTION PROPOSAL MIGHT BE IMPLEMENTED, WITH NO REFERENCE TO PARTICULAR LDC.

4. WALTERS WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ABOVE IN WASHINGTON.
(COMMENT: SECRETARIAT REALIZES IT HAS BIG JOB TO DO BETWEEN
NOW AND MEXICAN MEETING. POSITION HAS BECOME MORE PROGAMATIC AND
MIGHT BE TERMED FLUID. THEREFORE, IMPORTANT FOR WASHINGTON MEETING
TO REACH AS CLEAR AS POSSIBLE AN UNDERSTANDING WITH WALTERS.)

5. AGAINST BACKGROUND OF ABOVE, APRIL 14 CONVERSATION BETWEEN
BAKER AND TWO INDIAN DELEGATES TO CFA IS INTERESTING. INDIANS
INDICATED WALTERS HAD OUTLINED FOOD PRODUCTION PROPOSAL.
THEY DID NOT BELIEVE INDIA WOULD BE INTERESTED IN PROPOSAL
AND FELT FOCUS OF MEETING SHOULD BE ON PROGRESS IN
IMPLEMENTING MANILA COMMUNIQUE, IN PARTICULAR ON THE QUESTION
OF RESERVES. THEY ALSO STATED FEELING THAT COUNCIL COULD
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ENDORSE CERTAIN PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE CONCLUSION OF RESERVES
AGREEMENT ON FOOD AID CONVENTION. (COMMENT: WE WOULD NOT
BE SURPRISED IF THIS VIEW HAD CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT, ESPECIALLY
AMONG MAJOR RECIPIENTS FOOD AID. QUESTIONS FROM WORLD FOOD
SECURITY PAPER (SEE REFTEL D) GIVE SOME PICTURE OF POSSIBLE
THRUST OF SUCH PRINCIPLES; AND WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO
SEE BEGINNINGS OF EFFORT TO ELABORATE THEM AT COMMITTEE ON
WORLD FOOD SECURITY, APRIL 24-28.) GARDNER

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